

**UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE /**  
**W. B. CLIVE & Co**  
**Dave Hill**

The University Correspondence College and W. B. Clive & Co. were both users of “carpet” dies. Four dies for UNIV CORR COLL, U1440.01 & .02, U1445.01 and U1447.01 and two dies CLIVE C4522.01 and CLIVE & Co - C4523.01.

UNIV CORR COLL

**U1440.01**

**U1440.02**

UNIV CORR COLL

UNIV. CORR. COLL.

**U1445.01**

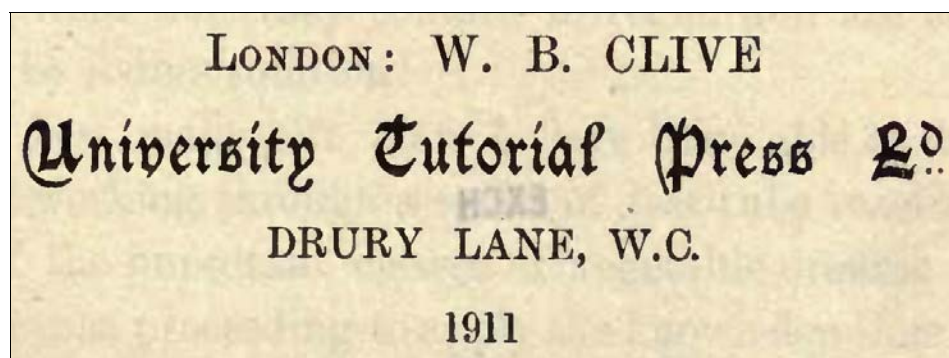
**U1447.01**

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UNIV. CORR. COLL.  
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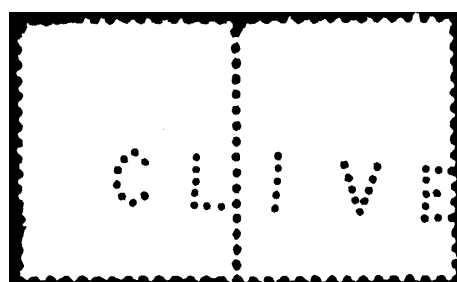
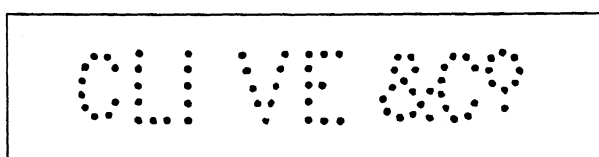
The University Correspondence College (also known as University Tutorial College) was founded by William Briggs (1861-1932) in 1887 to offer tuition to people taking external exams, mainly with the University of London. It offered lessons by post and face to face in London and Cambridge as well as dedicated textbooks, it was the forerunner of the Open University. It was especially valuable to women in the early days as they were still excluded from most universities but could study as external students at London University or where they lived.



At first it operated partly from 13, Booksellers Row, off The Strand London WC but by 1909 had moved to Bloomsbury, where they were still operating in the 1980's. Booksellers Row was redeveloped in the early 1900's along with Wych Street, when Kingsway was built. The area had been well known for booksellers, and infamous for pornographic books!



In 1890 H. G. Wells the author was almost unknown, the following is taken from Michael Sherbourne's 2013 biography of H. G. Wells "Another Kind of Life". To finance his forthcoming marriage Wells was working very hard whilst studying for the final stages of his BSc. Looking for extra work he started work at UCC to replace the existing biology tutor. The UCC owned a laboratory at 13, Booksellers Row over the premises of their publishing company, W. B. Clive & Co. The books they published for UCC at that time were mostly Latin and Greek textbooks. Clive's later moved to Drury Lane. They published H. G. Well's first book, A Textbook of Biology in 1893.



At first I thought that the main use for the UCC carpet dies would be for diplomas issued by them but perhaps they were also used to perforate students text books, along with the Clive dies. Has anybody seen anything like this? I belong to a subscription library that still perforates their books as a mark of ownership. On stamps the UNIV CORR COLL dies are known used from 1890 to 1945 on low value stamps up to 5d, used in London, Cambridge and Birmingham.